

MINUTES
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE BOARD
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
City Hall, Room 310
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Heiman, Kathy De Cremer, Renee Keehan, Heidi Michel

ALSO PRESENT: Officer James Runge

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dean Gerondale

The meeting was called to order by Heidi Michel.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the August 9, 2017 Minutes of the Sex Offender Residency Board meeting

Motion made by R. Keehan to approve the August 9, 2017 Minutes, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. APPEALS

(a) Appeal of Allen Miller requesting to move to 120 Minor Court

Allen appeared by telephone from the Halawa Correctional Facility in Hawaii. H. Michel advised Allen of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

In the summer of 1996, Allen was convicted of first degree sexual assault of a victim under the age of 14 and two second degree sexual assaults of victims under the age of 14

Allen stated the victims were between the ages of 10 and 13. Allen was 47 years old at the time. He performed fellatio on all three victims over a four month period. Allen knew the father of the children. They had been left in his care for a period of time. He was convicted of 17 charges and received a 40 year sentence with a 20 year minimum. He is now in his 21st year of incarceration. Allen admitted he groomed the children by taking them to public places (beaches, parks, movies, lunch). One of the victims reported it at school.

During the Grand Jury process, Allen came back to Green Bay for his sister's funeral. The police picked him up while he was in Green Bay and sent him back to Hawaii. Allen pled guilty to the charges.

Allen has had surgery and is currently in a wheelchair. While in custody, Allen completed a substance abuse class and sex offender program. He plans on getting into aftercare. While in treatment, Allen learned about empathy and how the crime may have affected the victims. When asked why he committed the crimes, Allen stated he is gay and they were there. He thought they loved him but now admits he was stupid. Allen has learned a lot about himself and is now aware of his triggers.

Allen has no family in Hawaii. He, his brother, David, and sister, Carol, own one-third of this house on Minor Court in Green Bay. His parents passed away and gave them each one third ownership. Allen was born and raised in Green Bay. Over the years, he has done a lot of traveling and was always able to find employment working in kitchens of nicer restaurants.

Since being incarcerated, Allen has had no contact with the victims or their father.

Allen would like to live in this home with his sister and brother. He has applied for an interstate compact agreement. Getting it will depend upon the board's approval today. Allen said he will stay busy with hobbies and attending aftercare. He's looking forward to spending time with his sister and brother as he hasn't seen them in a long time.

R. Keehan asked Allen if these three were his only victims. Allen admitted there were a couple others throughout the years, also in Hawaii. R. Keehan asked Allen why the board should believe this won't happen again. Allen stated he's learned a lot about himself and what happens to people. Back then he was young, crazy and island hopping. He drank but didn't do drugs.

R. Keehan asked if the other victims were children. Allen stated the victims were 16 and 17 years of age.

Dave Miller, 120 Minor Court, is present on Allen's behalf. He is Allen's brother. He provided a letter from Allen's sister. R. Keehan mentioned that when she drove by the house, she noticed kids' toys alongside the garage. Dave stated there is a two year old great grandchild who visits his sister. The parole agent won't come to check out the residence until Allen is approved to live there. Dave speaks with Allen by phone a couple times a week. H. Michel asked Dave how he feels about all this. Dave stated it's been a long 20+ years. He feels Allen has changed, including his health condition.

Discussion: R. Keehan stated she was concerned when she noticed the children's toys in the yard, and now learning a great grandchild will be visiting. She is also shocked to hear there were more victims. K. De Cremer appreciates Allen being forthcoming, but also has concerns.

A motion to DENY the appeal of Allen Miller was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by R. Keehan. All in favor. Motion carried.

H. Michel stated she voted for denial because Green Bay has a lot of its own sex offenders who have difficulty finding housing, and she would rather give them priority. She also feels 20 years in an institution is a long time and a transition period is helpful before coming into society.

(b) Appeal of Richard Thomas requesting to move to 2021 Deckner Avenue

Richard called and asked that his request be withdrawn at this time.

(c) Appeal of Jeremiah Johnson requesting to move to 806 Dousman Street, #B

Jeremiah appeared in person. H. Michel advised Jeremiah of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Jeremiah would like to live at this location with his girlfriend.

Jeremiah was convicted of second degree sexual assault in 1995 and 1997. The victims were 14 years of age. He had gone out with some friends and the victim returned to his house with him. They had sexual intercourse. While he was revoked and in prison for another case, he was charged with this crime.

Jeremiah feels his upbringing had a lot to do with his actions. He had no one to teach him about good and bad decisions and point him in the right direction.

While incarcerated, Jeremiah got his HSED, attended college through Fox Valley Tech (horticulture program) and trained dogs for a year for the blind and disabled. He also learned two languages, taught a drawing class and enjoys painting. Jeremiah completed SO4 treatment (two year program). He's remained employed and active and is in touch with his family.

Regarding the 1995 case, the victim was 14 and Jeremiah was 18. She was his girlfriend and he didn't see anything wrong with it at the time. He hung out with older friends and did everything they did. When his probation officer came over for a house search, Jeremiah introduced his girlfriend and admitted they were having sexual relations. A few days later he was put in jail. He received three years' probation.

Jeremiah received five years for the 1997 case. He met the 14 year old girl at a party. Because he felt she liked him, he took advantage of her.

Back then, Jeremiah thought consensual sex was consensual sex no matter how young a person was.

Since being released from prison, Jeremiah got a job and a car. He's been honest with his parole officer and follows all the rules. He works at Performance Firestop and sees this as a career job. Jeremiah likes to skateboard and write music. He doesn't drink or use drugs. He spends time with his girlfriend. He goes to DarJune Café often. He's been drug and alcohol free for 8-1/2 years.

Chris, who works at DarJune Cafe, is present to speak on Jeremiah's behalf. Jeremiah comes to the Cafe on a regular basis. Chris is also a certified recovery coach, and the lead organizer for Ex-Prisoners Organizing, a statewide organization. Chris expects Jeremiah to hold himself to a higher standard at all times within this community. He feels Jeremiah has proven himself. He's open and honest about his history. Chris feels Jeremiah is a very nice young man and has changed.

Craig Coleman, who works at the Green Bay Job Center, is present to speak on Jeremiah's behalf, also. Craig came to this meeting because he really believes in Jeremiah. Craig put Jeremiah to work at a difficult job and he didn't complain one bit. He did this work for very little pay. This proved to Craig that Jeremiah was able to get a bigger job, so he recommended him to a friend of his at Performance Firestop. It's a great job which pays a great wage. Jeremiah can get into an apprenticeship and make a career out of this and have a life for himself. Jeremiah has never missed an appointment with Craig, or ever said any cross words or things Craig didn't agree with. He's an upstanding member of this community and a very moral person. Craig feels Jeremiah's prior problems were related to alcohol and drugs; and also his upbringing.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Jeremiah Johnson, address specific, was made by R. Keehan, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

(d) Appeal of Ernesto Gonzalez requesting to move to 1118 Lime Kiln Road

Ernesto appeared in person. H. Michel advised Ernesto of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Ernesto was convicted of child sexual enticement/sexual contact in 2016. The victim was 17 years of age. He was 52. He stated he truthfully does not understand the charges. He doesn't understand it, but will learn from it. He took care of the child and her family. He believes someone called her school and a caseworker got involved. He was arrested at work.

H. Michel pointed out he has a deferred prosecution or sentence on this case. Ernesto said he was given a year in Huber and seven years' probation. H. Michel said it appears that Ernesto has to return to court in 10 years.

Ernesto was convicted of third degree sexual assault in 2003. The victim was 52 years old. They were both drinking and he does not remember much about it. He spent three years in prison with five years supervision on this case.

Ernesto has completed treatment with Jim Drake. He's also had an assessment with the ATTIC.

Gordon Runnoe, 1745 Suburban Drive, De Pere, Wi, is present to speak on Ernesto's behalf. Ernesto has worked for Gordon since 2008. When this incident took place, Gordon contacted every person in his company, who are mainly women. Everyone was in support of Ernesto coming back. They could not believe the incident took place. Gordon's daughter (then 17, now 23) worked alongside Ernesto for four to five months. She was dumbfounded and couldn't imagine it taking place. Ernesto took an Alford Plea. He was never found guilty of rape or enticement. Gordon and his employees have confidence it didn't take place. There are 45 employees at Gordon's company, and 30 are women. Ernesto has worked alongside high school kids with no issues. Gordon has spoken with them as well.

Rogelio (?), 1118 Lime Kiln Road, is also present on Ernesto's behalf. Rogelio has known the victim's family since he was four or five years old. Ernesto was dating the victim's mom. He took care of the family even when they were not dating. Rogelio is best friends with the family's son. Ernesto treats them all as if they are his own kids and Rogelio does not think he is guilty of anything.

Tanya (?), 1118 Lime Kiln Road, spoke on behalf of Ernesto. She is Ernesto's fiancée. She was shocked when she heard the news. Ernesto has taught Tanya a lot about negativity in life and that she should believe in herself. He treats all her kids as his own. He's a wonderful man. They have known each other a long time. Tanya's ex-husband also approved Ernesto living with Tanya and her kids, as did his parole officer.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Ernesto Gonzalez, address specific, was made by R. Keehan, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

(e) Appeal of Mark Larson requesting to move to 706 N. Broadway

Mark appeared in person. H. Michel advised Mark of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Mark was convicted of first degree sexual assault in 2002 and second degree sexual assault in 2002. The victims were 12 and 14 years of age. He served six years in and ten out for the first degree charges and three in and seven out for the second degree charges. He served a total of 15 years.

Mark stated he was originally living in Milwaukee and he had an on-and-off relationship with a girl he knew from high school. She kept going back to her ex-boyfriend. Mark suggested they move out of the area if their relationship was going to work. They moved to Michigan, but she ended up going back to her ex again.

Mark came back to Green Bay to work with a friend. Mark ended up hanging around with his friends' buddies and started drinking heavily. Mark's friend's girlfriend's son seemed to really like Mark and would hug him a lot. The son came to spend the night with Mark and they watched a pornographic movie. Mark ended up performing fellatio on him. It happened one more time with another victim. This happened over about a month's time.

Mark continued to drink heavily and moved back to Milwaukee. He ended up getting picked up there. One of the victims told a counselor at school. Mark pled no contest. He takes full responsibility for what happened. Mark is on probation until 2024.

Mark completed sex offender treatment at Red Granite in 2006. He is alcohol and drug free and works full time at Wisconsin Plastics. He got his GED while in prison. He also took some college classes through UW-Platteville for business administration.

Mark feels terrible about his crimes. He thinks about the victims every day and hopes they are ok.

Mark provided a binder with several letters and certificates in it. He is on a waiting list for treatment at the ATTIC, and AODA treatment at Options to maintain his sobriety.

Mark was released from prison March 14, 2017. He's been at the TLP the whole time. His job is going well and he anticipates getting a promotion this week. The people are very supportive and he loves the work.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Mark Larson, address specific, was made by R. Keehan, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

(f) Appeal of Todd Beyersdorf requesting to move to 1241-1/2 Cedar Street

Todd appeared in person. H. Michel advised Todd of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Todd came before the board in June and was approved at this location for 90 days. He was asked to return to report how things are going.

Todd stated things are good. He's having a major operation on the September 28. He's still on the roster at work. He got his driver's license back. He's following all rules.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Todd Beyersdorf, address specific, was made by R. Keehan, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

(g) Appeal of James Sanford requesting to move to 1730 Badger Street

James appeared in person. H. Michel advised James of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

James appeared before the board in July and was approved at this location for 60 days.

James provided an updated letter from Jim Drake at Family Services, which clarified a statement in a prior letter.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of James Sanford, address specific, was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

(h) Appeal of Cody DeGrave requesting to move to 2636 Hazelwood Lane

Cody appeared in person. H. Michel advised Cody of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Cody appeared before the board in December 2016 and was approved to live on Imperial Lane at that time. He is currently homeless.

At the time, Cody was on probation. He got an 86 day sanction for smoking pot in Door County. He got out on June 30 and at that time only had 17 days left on paper. His parole officer let him discharge off paper. He ended up losing his apartment.

Since being released, Cody got a job at City Wide Masonry. It's a good job and he works 10 to 12 hours a day.

Cody completed an eleven month SO2 program while in prison. He saw Jim Drake for a year.

Cody's ex-wife/girlfriend appeared on his behalf. They were married for two years and got divorced when he went to prison. They are now back together. She is proud of Cody. He's a great guy and a good worker. He quit drinking. Now that Cody is off probation, they can live together.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Cody De Grave, address specific, was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by R. Keehan. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date of October 11, 2017 was confirmed.

A motion to adjourn was made by K. De Cremer, seconded by R. Keehan. All in favor. Motion carried.